

In the Specification

Please amend the Specification as follows:

The paragraph beginning at page 17, line 6 is amended as follows:

A1
In the FIG. 5 example implementation, four example communication links L_1 , L_2 , L_3 , L_4 are illustrated between the node A's HCA 120 and the multi-stage switch fabric 100', and four example links L_5 , L_6 , L_7 , L_8 are illustrated between the multi-stage switch fabric 100' and the node C's TCA [[120]] 160. As mentioned previously, the NGIO switched fabric 100' may be any collection of links, switches and/or switch elements. It should be apparent at this point that the example FIG. 4 local multi-port switch and single-port link repeaters (embodying implementations of the present invention) can be used as switches and/or repeaters throughout the FIG. 5 multi-stage switched fabric 100'. Further, it should also be apparent that implementations of the present invention could likewise be embodied within any of the HCA and/or TCA. If implemented in the FIG. 5 NGIO environment, the example FIG. 4 local devices (e.g., in an NGIO, FIO or InfiniBand environment) might be able to provide support for communication link distances of 100 M (meters) to 200 M as shown representatively in FIG. 4. Similarly, the FIG. 4 remote devices might be able to provide support for communication link distances of 800 M to 1600 M as shown representatively in FIG. 4. The longer communication links may further require fiber optics and the need Link Repeaters at the other end of the links.